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Letter dated 10 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the African Union issued on 9 July by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the African Union, issued on 9 July 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union warmly welcomes the inauguration today of the African Union at its first summit in Durban. With this historic event, African nations have taken an important step towards creating a stronger and more coherent framework for peace, stability, good governance and economic development in Africa.

The tasks of the South African Presidency of the African Union are enormous, especially with regard to giving impetus to the transformation process and operationalizing links with the subregional organizations. The European Union is encouraged by the perspectives presented for the implementation of the African Union and looks to African leaders to demonstrate the resolve and take the concrete actions necessary to make it operational. The European Union is fully supportive of the Presidency of the African Union in this process.

In this context, the European Union also reiterates its support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a catalyst for Africa's development, in line with the aims of the African Union. The European Union attaches special importance to the NEPAD principles of democracy, human rights, the rule of law and political and economic good governance as well as conflict prevention as cornerstones for the creation of a more conducive environment for peace, stability and development in Africa.

In line with the Cairo Declaration, the European Union reiterates its support for the African efforts to make the African Union a success. The European Union looks forward to the opportunities that the African Union brings to build on earlier cooperation and to deepen political dialogue.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the European Free Trade Association countries Norway and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with the present statement.